Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine: Meth Cooks commonly obtain the necessary ephedrine by extracting the ephedrine from over the counter products such as Mini Thins, Psuedoephedrine, multiple other brand names. These packages come in various size bottles and blister packs.

After the Meth Cook obtains the pills, the cook then grinds up or crushes the pills, often using a coffee grinder. Then the cook adds a solvent such as denatured alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, methanol, or water.

After the cook filters the solution, the cook heats the solvent containing the ephedrine. Commonly used items are Pyrex dishes, electric skillets, or even woks.

Lithium Metal: Lithium batteries are commonly used to obtain the necessary lithium. Lithium batteries are then ripped open and the lithium is removed. Lithium is extremely reactive to water and can ignite with just the moisture in the air.

After the lithium, anhydrous ammonia, and the ephedrine is added to a reaction vessel and allowed to “cook”, a solvent is added to the reaction. The solution is now known as a methamphetamine base. The final step for the cook is to “gas” out the meth crystals from the liquid. The cook uses a “HCL gas generator during this stage.

HCL Gas Generators: This is the most commonly disposed of item from a lab. HCL gas generators are inexpensive for the meth cook to make, they are portable, and they are disposable. HCL gas is a strong respiratory and eye irritant. Contact can cause severe burns. Common ingredients include rock salt, aluminum foil, Muriatic or Surfuric Acid. Some of the more common containers used to make HCL gas generators include, insecticide sprayers, propane tanks, pop bottles, pop cans, milk jugs, gas cans, and beakers.

Solvents: A substance capable of dissolving another substance. Some of the more common solvents and chemicals associated with methamphetamine labs are listed below. The majority of these chemicals are flammable and all attack the eyes, skin, and respiratory system.

Acetone	Muriatic Acid
Ethyl Ether	Rock Salt
Denatured Alcohol	Hydriodic Acid
Toluene	Freon
Xylene	Red Phosphorous
Coleman fuel	Methanol
Anhydrous ammonia	Red Devil Lye

Red Phosphorous Method

While Nazi Labs are easy to overlook, Red Phosphorous Labs are usually easily recognized because they generally use unique glassware and are normally large operations. The yield of a red phosphorous lab is large compared to the Nazi method. So is the waste creation. For every pound of methamphetamine manufactured, there is 5-6 pounds of hazardous waste. The dangers associated with this method are also higher. Overheating red phosphorous can create white or yellow phosphorous which can ignite with air or friction. Overheating red phosphorous also generates Phosphine gas, which is deadly. Some of the common ingredients associated with this method include, red phosphorous, Hydriodic Acid, and Iodine.

This brochure complements of

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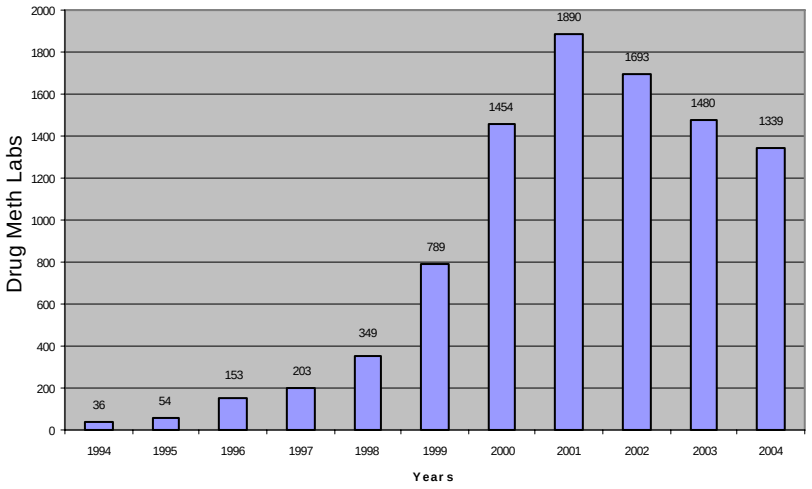
(Information and photos provided by the Pierce County and Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office.)

Methamphetamine

“THE CRISIS”

Meth Hotline
1-800-609-6384

Department of Ecology: Statewide Reported Meth Drug Labs



The Crisis

Washington State has seen a tremendous increase in Methamphetamine Laboratories. The ability to obtain the legal, over the counter precursor drugs used in manufacturing has resulted in the growth of small mobile labs where production is both quick and capable of generating a product of high purity. Methamphetamine is a synthetic compound in the amphetamine family. It is a long lasting central nervous system stimulant and is an extremely addictive drug.

Its continued use causes extensive damage to the user's liver, kidneys, and cardiovascular system. Users lose teeth and develop skin lesions. They sometimes go for days without sleep, become emaciated and are easily susceptible to other diseases.

The Impact

- The need for money to finance the manufacture and purchase of the drug has clearly fueled the large increase in burglaries, mail theft, forgery and identity theft.
- Domestic violence and violence against children can be linked to the perpetrator use of methamphetamine. Violence between the user and the manufacturer is common and the increased number of weapons found when labs are raided attest to this.
- Children exposed to methamphetamine labs are at a much higher risk for developing serious health problems. Children are also exposed to a much higher risk of physical abuse and neglect.
- Due to the dangers associated with the chemicals common to methamphetamine manufacturing, police officers, firefighters, emergency responders, and numerous other agencies who conduct home visits or inspections can find themselves in a potentially dangerous situation.

Meth user for 2.5 years.

This baby fell into Meth Lab chemicals.

In an effort to stop meth, the Legislature passed ESHB 2266 this year. This bill requires retailers to keep cold and allergy medicines containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine in an area not accessible to the public. Persons purchasing such medicines must show photo ID for the clerk to verify he or she is at least 18 years of age. A person may only purchase two packages (3 grams) in one transaction in a 24-hour period. The State Board of Pharmacy will conduct a pilot project to determine the best way for sellers of the drugs to keep a log so that it is useful to law enforcement and can act as a deterrent to criminal activity.

Methods of manufacturing

There are several methods of manufacturing methamphetamine, but the two most common are the Lithium Metal and anhydrous ammonia (Nazi) method and the Red phosphorous and Hydriodic Acid (Red P) method.

Nazi Method

The recipe is relatively easy, with most needed ingredients available at the nearest hardware store. Because it is normally a small operation, these labs are highly mobile and easily overlooked.

There are basically only three ingredients needed for the Nazi method of manufacturing: Anhydrous Ammonia, Ephedrine/psuedoephedrine and lithium or sodium metal.

Anhydrous Ammonia: Commonly used as an agricultural fertilizer, commercial refrigerant, and as an additive for compounds such as window cleaner.

Contact with anhydrous ammonia may cause burns, severe injury and/or frostbite. Vapors are extremely irritating and corrosive and will quickly form corrosive mixtures in moist areas and attacks the eyes, skin, and respiratory system.

Meth cooks obtain the needed anhydrous ammonia by stealing it from the farmers, railway cars, and purchasing it through businesses.

Meth Cooks commonly store anhydrous ammonia in propane tanks or other metal containers. The valves on Propane tanks are not rated for anhydrous ammonia. The anhydrous ammonia attacks the valves, causing a very distinctive corrosion. These corroded valves become unstable and could fail or explode, spewing out anhydrous ammonia.

Multiple propane tanks strewn about the property, propane tanks or other canisters with altered valves, hoses attached, or hanging upside down, are warning signs that they contain anhydrous ammonia.